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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ON THE

SANITARY

AND

HOUSING CONDITIONS

OF THE

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

PRESTON:
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To the Chairman and Members of the Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have now to present as your Medical Officer of Health my Annual Report for the year 1925.

In accordance with the terms of the circular letter 648 (England), issued by the Minister of Health, this statement is to be what is termed a "Survey Report," embracing under certain headings extended statements and comprehensive figures (for 5 years) relative to certain important points, such as the conversion of sanitary conveniences, slaughter houses, &c. Special attention is directed to Housing, Water Supply, Sewerage, Scavenging (or refuse disposal), and Food Inspection. There are certain points of considerable importance which I here desire to bring into prominence relating to the past 5 years and previous periods :—

(*a*) Steady decrease in the death-rates—1895 to 1899—17·5 per 1000, shrinking to 12·3 per 1000 in the period 1920-1924; for the year 1925 the mortality rate is 11·0 per 1000.

(*b*) Infantile mortality : a yearly downward tendency from 171 per 1000 registered births in 1895—1899 to 68 per 1000 births for the 5 years 1920-1924, and a rate of only 39 per 1000 births for the year under review.

(*c*) Birth-rate : a gradual fall has been experienced for the above periods, from an average of 29·6 per 1000 in 1895-1899 to 16·7 per 1000 in the year 1925.

(*d*) The conversion of privy closets and pails to water carriage has by voluntary arrangement between the Council and owners made considerable progress. Figures will be given in the body of the Report.

(*e*) The inspection of houses included in the survey of the area, together with service of notices for the improvement of property, and the abatement of unhealthy conditions and nuisances, formed a very useful part of the Sanitary Officer's work; when my advice was necessary I joined in these inspections. 75 New houses have been built in 1925.

(*f*) The carrying into effect of the new regulations bearing on the sale of meat, together with the supervision of slaughter houses, the production and sale of milk, involving the inspection and improvement of cowsheds, have all had attention.

(*g*) The water supply, which is constant, is sufficient and satisfactory.

(*h*) Notifiable Infectious Diseases: The figures indicating the prevalence of these diseases (Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever) were the second best since 1921. There were no cases of Small Pox, Typhoid Fever, or Encephalitis Lethargica reported. (See body of Report.)

The years surveyed in this statement have undoubtedly been periods of considerable sanitary progress. The Council is keenly anxious to improve the conditions under which the inhabitants of the township live, and the constant attention in this direction has been productive of much good work on the part of their officials. For myself, I can truly say I have been well supported and treated with great courtesy by the Council, and for all this I am profoundly grateful.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE.

April, 1925.

Urban District of Walton-le-Dale.

Natural and social conditions of the area :—

Area in acres	...	...	4683.
Population (Census 1921)		...	12153.
Estimated, 1925	...	...	12260.

Physical features and general character of the area :—

The district is roughly quadrangular in shape, having an average width from east to west of some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and from north to south $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles, the surface sloping generally from south-east to north-west.

In the south-east the ground rises to a height of some 280 feet above sea level, whilst at the north-west it is as low as 25 feet or so above the same datum.

About two miles of the northern boundary of the district is formed by the River Ribble, which is tidal, and in the bed of which an outcrop of red sandstone (Triassic) is seen.

The River Darwen flows through a comparatively deep valley in the northern portion of the district, joining the Ribble on the northern boundary.

The geological surface consists almost entirely of boulder clay, beneath which lie drift sands and gravel, and under these again the Triassic sandstones.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921) ... 2823.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 2837.

Rateable value, £57,160.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £238.

The township is non-residential the population being mostly cotton operatives, farmers (producers of milk, butter and cheese), and market gardeners. There are in addition two foundries, employing 200 to 300 hands. The improved conditions under which cotton operatives now work have undoubtedly made the lives of the people heathful and happy. The introduction of dining-rooms (with means of cooking food), cloak rooms, baths, improved sanitary arrangements, &c., have had an excellent effect. It must not for a moment be assumed that all these advancements are to be found in all cotton factories; it is to be deplored that in some concerns these extras do not exist. All the same, improved conditions under which the cotton operative works, together with shorter hours of toil, better food and clothing, and improved housing are rendering the lives of our cotton workers worth living. The pursuits of farming and market gardening are both healthy, having the advantage of out-door employment.

Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Males.	Females.
Births in 1925	...	205	100	105
Deaths in 1925	...	135	68	67

Births and Birth-rate.—The Registrar-General reports that the number of births registered in or belonging to the Urban District of Walton-le-Dale during the year 1925 numbered 205, males 100, females 105; in the year 1924 there were 200 births, and 215 in 1923.

The birth-rate for the Urban District, calculated on the estimated population corresponded to 16.7 against a rate of 16.3 last year and an average of 19.0 for the 5 years 1920-1924. With the exception of last year and some of the war years the birth-rate is the lowest recorded in the district. The tabulated statement on page 8 shows the birth-rates of the district since 1895 grouped in quinquennial periods.

The provisional birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1925 was 18·3 per 1000.

Deaths and Death-rate.—The nett deaths actually belonging to the Urban District registered for the year 1925 numbered 135, males 68, females 67. The deaths actually occurring in the District were 117, of these 5 were outward transfers, i.e. deaths occurring in the District of persons who did not belong thereto, and there were 23 deaths (inward transfers) which occurred outside the township of persons belonging thereto; in 1924 the corrected number of deaths was 169, and 141 in 1923.

The following tabulated statement, supplied by the Registrar-General, analyses the causes of death, distinguishing males and females:—

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes	68	67
Diphtheria	...	1
Influenza	2	3
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....	6	7
Other tuberculous diseases	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease	3	4
Rheumatic fever	...	1
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	8	7
Heart disease	9	10
Arterio-sclerosis	...	2
Bronchitis	10	11
Pneumonia (all forms).....	6	6
Other respiratory diseases	...	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	...
Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	4	1
Congenital debility, &c.	...	4
Suicide	1	...
Other deaths from violence	5	3
Other defined diseases	9	3
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	...
Total deaths of infants under 1 year ...	3	5
Illegitimate	...	...
Total births	100	105
Legitimate	97	103
Illegitimate	3	2
Population	12,260	

The death-rate of the Urban District for the year under report corresponds to 11·0 of the estimated population, against an average for the 5 years 1920-1924 of 12·3. The rate of 11·0 for 1925 is the lowest ever recorded for the District. On page 8 the death-rates of the District are given since 1895, grouped in quinquennial periods. It may be of interest to note that the death-rate of the District for the year 1891 was 25·5 per 1000.

The provisional death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1925 was 12·2 per 1000.

Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis.)

The deaths registered in 1925 as due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System (Phthisis) were 13, males 6, females 7, as compared with 12 deaths in 1924, 6 in 1923, and 11 in 1922. The Phthisis death-rate shows a slight increase on last year's average, namely 1·06 per 1000 against 0·98 in 1924. The average Phthisis death-rates for the past 30 years are shown on page 8.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

Bronchitis in 1925 contributed 21 deaths, and Pneumonia (all forms) 12 deaths. Last year Bronchitis caused 12 deaths, and Pneumonia 16 deaths.

Other causes of death.

Cancer gave rise during 1925 to 7 deaths, Cerebral Hæmorrhage 15 deaths, Heart Disease 19 deaths, Violence 8 deaths, Nephritis 5 deaths, Influenza 5 deaths, &c.

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under the age of one year in 1925 was 8, males 3, females, 5, a marked reduction on last year when the infant deaths numbered 14.

The infant death-rate calculated per 1000 births was the lowest ever recorded for the District, namely 39, as compared with 70 last year, 60 in 1923, 78 in 1922, and 70 in 1921. From the table given on page 8 it will be noted that the average infant death-rate for the 5 years 1895-1899 was no less than 171 per 1000 births.

The Infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1925 was 75 per 1000 births.

The following Table analyses the causes of Infant Deaths at stated age periods :—

Cause of death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks— 3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths Under 1 year.
Debility from birth ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Meningocele ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Broncho Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	1
Acute Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	1
Congenital heart disease	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Marasmus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Total ...	2	2	...	...	4	1	1	1	1	8

The following tabulated statement compares the birth-rate and death rates for 1925 with the rates of the preceding 30 years, grouped in periods of 5 years :—

Rates per 1000 of Population.

Mean of 5 years	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
1895-1899 ...	29·6	17·5	1·00	171
1900-1904 ...	26·4	15·6	1·06	144
1905-1909 ...	26·8	15·4	0·93	133
1910-1914 ...	21·8	12·8	0·83	112
1915-1919 ...	15·7	14·4	0·92	101
1920-1924 ...	19·0	12·3	0·71	68
Year 1924 ...	16·3	13·8	0·98	70
1925 ...	16·7	*11·0	1·06	39
Increase or decrease in 1925 on Mean of 5 years 1920-1924 ...	—3·2	—1·3	+0·35	—29
Previous Year ...	+0·4	—2·8	+0·08	—31

*Standardizing factor 1·022 ; Corrected death-rate = 11·2 per 1000.

The distribution of Poor Law Relief in 1925 amounted to £627 14s. There is no form of actual gratuitous medical relief available exclusive of the Poor Law Medical Service, and the Preston Royal Infirmary, this last named institution cannot be considered wholly gratuitous. No remarks are necessary bearing on sickness or invalidity. The occupations of the inhabitants are not such as to have a prejudicial effect on health. The environment is good.

Health Services.

Two Isolation Hospitals are provided, one for Small-pox, 8 beds, the other for other Infectious diseases, 20 beds.

No Hospital accommodation is provided for Tuberculosis, Maternity cases or Children. Tuberculosis is a County Council responsibility, excellently met and dealt with, Maternity cases are accepted at the Preston Royal Infirmary (on payment), and the Poor Law Institution at Fulwood. Children are embraced in the County scheme of welfare.

There is a County Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Bamber Bridge at the Conservative Club, open on Thursdays, 2 to 4 o'clock p.m. I here give a detail of the scope of the work carried out in 1925 :—

No. of times the Centre was open during year	48
No. of individual children attending :—	
Under 1 year of age	123
From 1—2 years of age	73
Over 2 years of age	78
No. of attendances by children :—	
Under 1 year of age	846
From 1—2 years of age	415
Over 2 years of age	570
No. of attendances by expectant mothers :—	
No. of individual expectant mothers attending	19
No. of actual attendances	114
No. of attendances by other women :	
No. of individual women attending ...	83
Number of actual attendances	239
Home Visits :—	
(Infants under 1 year)	
Number of first visits...	155
Number of re-visits	225

(Children 1—5 years of age)

Number of visits	51

ANTE-NATAL WORK (Expectant Mothers):—

Number of first visits	11
Number of re-visits	12

OTHER MATTERS:—

Special visits to other children	3

REPORTS TO COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—

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There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

Ambulance services are satisfactory, a horse ambulance is provided for infectious removals, and two motor ambulances are stationed in Preston, and under the scheme of the Order of St. John and British Red Cross Society, a 15 miles service should be available round Preston. Day Nurseries, School Clinics, Tuberculous Dispensaries, Veneral Disease treatment are all responsibilities of the County Council.

An after-care centre has been established at the Leyland School Clinic in connection with the Lancashire County Council scheme for dealing with Crippled Children. This Centre is visited once a month by a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and also by an Orthopaedic Nurse. After examination the children are treated at the Centre, or those requiring operation at Ancoats Hospital, Manchester, or the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital, Windermere. This Centre is available for all children resident in the county area from birth to 16 years of age.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.—This information will be found fully set out in summary attached.

General home nursing is undertaken by two nurses provided by local nursing committees. Apart from the Isolation Hospital infectious cases are not nursed. Midwifery and monthly and child welfare nursing are not undertaken, nor does any arrangement exist between the Council and the local Nursing Committees with regard to these matters. The supply of milk, &c., to nursing and expectant mothers, and also to children, is in the hands of the County Council.

There are four midwives on the County register, and four in actual practice in the township. The Council do not subsidise the nurses, who conduct their own practices, they are

competent and steady, and the service is sufficient for the needs of the area.

There are no special Local Acts or Local Orders in force.

The following Acts have been adopted by the Council :—

Acts in force in the District.	Date Act came in force in the District.
1. Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889	1st Feb., 1890
2. „ „ „ Applicable to Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1st May, 1910
3. „ Chicken-pox	1st July, 1923
4. Infectious Dis. (Prevention) Act, 1890 (except sec. 14)...	1st July, 1891
5. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Pt. I, III, IV	„ „
6. Private Street Works Act, 1892	1st May, 1897
7. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part II, III, and V, and Sections 52 to 62, and 64 to 68 of Part IV	17th Feb., 1909
8. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Pt. VIII (Fire Brigade)	20th Nov., 1911
9. Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885, Regulations under same	1st Mar., 1900

These acts are in active use and are fully observed. No co-operation exists between the Council and the ancillary services of the National Health Insurance, Voluntary Hospitals or Poor Law.

The following Statutes came into operation in 1925 :—

Public Health Act, 1925.
Housing Act, 1925.
Town Planning Act, 1925.
Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.
Tuberculosis Order, 1925.
Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.
Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925.
Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925.

Sanitary Circumstances of Walton-le-Dale.

Water.

The water supply is obtained from two sources, and is constant.

(a) Deep Well at School Lane, Bamber Bridge.

(b) Manchester Thirlmere Scheme.

The risks of contamination are practically nil, and the water has no plumbo-solvent action.

There are 2975 houses in the area, of these 2940 have a direct supply, whilst 5 obtain water from stand pipes, these figures leave a residue of approximately 30 dwelling houses outside the township's supply by reason of the long distance intervening between these houses and the water mains. The water in these instances is from wells and springs.

The quantities of water taken from the two sources named together with the distribution of the same is as follows:—

(1) From the School Lane Well	...	69,682,000 gals.
(2) From the Thirlmere Scheme	...	61,119,000 ,,
Total	...	130,801,000 ,,

The Council supplied 10,027,000 gallons of water outside their District; deducting this quantity from the whole, there remains 120,774,000 gallons. Accepting the population as 12,260, the supply of water per head per day is 27 gallons.

Water is charged for according to rateable value and by meter; the following tabulated statement introduces the explanatory figures:—

On Rateable Value.		Supplied by Meter.	
Houses	2832	Farms	50
Farms	36	Schools	11
Clubs	4	Public Houses ...	27
Other properties such as Workshops, Churches, Drill Hall, Hospitals, &c.	16	Slaughter Houses ...	2
		Mills, Workshops, &c.	90
	2888		180

Total property in the township supplied with water...	3068
Total premises in the District	3080

The hardness of the water as pumped into the mains from the School Lane Well averages 10·5.

The Gough Lane Reservoir has been brought into use during the past year. This has a capacity of 750,000 gallons,

which together with the Brindle Reservoir holding 200,000 gallons gives a total storage of 950,000 gallons. The installation of pressure filters is in process of instalment at School Lane Pumping Station.

Rivers and Streams.

There are two important rivers associated with Walton-le-Dale, the River Ribble, which separates the township from the County Borough of Preston, and the River Darwen. The former may be accepted as a fairly clean river, but the Darwen receives large quantities of trade effluent. The Ribble Watershed Joint Committee have under their jurisdiction the supervision of the pollution of Rivers, &c. The condition of the Darwen has much improved. The other minor streams are not polluted.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Except the outlying and sparsely populated portion the township is completely and efficiently sewered. The sewage runs by gravity to the outfall works at Carr Wood where it is dealt with by precipitation, settlement and filtration.

The effluent is discharged into the River Ribble. These works have given good results as evidenced by the reports of the Inspector of the Ribble Joint Committee. Some 2,430 yards of main sewer is to be put down in Hoghton Lane, the work was begun in November. Drain testing and flushing are carried out.

Closet Accommodation.

Each year brings considerable advancement in dealing with closet accommodation on the conservancy system. Conversions from privy to water carriage, and from pail to water carriage are receiving close attention. During the year under review 113 pails were abolished and W.C's. introduced, and it is the desire of the Council to speed up this work which is carried out under voluntary agreement between the Council and the property owner, each bearing an equal portion of the cost.

Where sewer and water sufficiency exist, Sec. 39, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, operates with regard to privy closets. In the summary attached under "Sanitary Circumstances of the Area" will be found figures fully explaining the position of the township with respect to the numbers of various types of conveniences remaining at the end of the year 1925, together with information concerning the conversions carried out in the same year, with figures showing the action taken during the five years 1921—1925.

The abolition of dry ashpits substituting covered movable galvanised ashbins has been an outstanding feature of the policy pursued. I may venture the assertion that a few years will bring about the total abolition of insanitary types of privy accommodation in Walton-le-Dale.

Scavenging.

The scavenging of the area is carried out efficiently, and at a much reduced cost by the Council. The Sanitary Inspector has this department under his control. One motor lorry and one horse vehicle are employed. The work done is very considerable, accurate details are set forth in the Inspector's report attached, these are comprehensive and lucid. Effective scavenging adds greatly to the health and comfort of the inhabitants.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following table shows the number of houses in each Ward :—

Ward.	Year 1924.	Houses built and occupied 1925.	Total.	Houses in course of construction.
St. Leonard's ...	719	64	783	19
Lostock Hall West including Brownedge	798	2	800	9
Bamber Bridge East	806	5	811	2
All Saints' ...	577	4	581	...
	2900	75	2975	30

From time to time I have personally visited and inspected portions of the township, and again when my advice was called for by the Council or Sanitary Inspector on any particular area or matter, I advised and carried out any inspection necessary, reporting thereon.

I personally paid some 60 special visits of inspection :—

Farms and buildings connected therewith ...	22
House Inspections (groups of houses) ...	18
Schools (re-inspections)	20
Disused tripe works	1
Special inspection of cottages	1

In addition I paid visits numbering 75 to infected houses. It is my practice to visit, so far as possible, all infected families, and to personally advise as to the nature of precautions necessary. Instances of Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever and Diptheria I seldom neglect to pay a personal visit. I am always anxious to see cases of Chicken-pox.

Following will be found a record of some of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector. Complete information will be found in his report attached :—

Inspection of	Dwelling Houses	276
,,	Infected ,, ...	88
,,	Schools	23
,,	Cowsheds and Milkshops ...	94
,,	Slaughter Houses & Shops...	88
,,	Yards	276
,,	Drains	325
,,	Factories	27
,,	Workshops & Bakehouses...	41
,,	Re-inspections	1156
,,	General Inspections... ...	22
		2416

Notices served during 1925.

	Formal.	Informal.	Total.
Notices served	141	377	518
Complied with	130	358	488
Outstanding	11	19	30

There are no offensive trades, nor are there any houses let in lodgings, excluding some instances where two families may share the same house; underground sleeping rooms do not exist.

The sanitary conditions of Walton-le-Dale are good. The area is sewered, served by a constant water supply, and lit by gas, and in possession of a good sanitary service, backed by a Council imbued with a high sense of their public health responsibilities. I have directed attention to the condition of side streets and back passages between rows of houses, with the result that certain areas of the township have been scheduled, and the permanent construction of these side streets and passages is to be proceeded with.

Schools.

There are 10 public elementary schools. Some are exceedingly good, others are just satisfactory, but there appears to be sufficient accommodation, and these buildings are well lighted and ventilated. I have no hesitation in condemning

the playing yards of nearly all these schools, cinder constructed play grounds are grossly wrong; in wet weather there are inequalities full of water in which most children rejoice to wade, and in dry seasons dirty dust is raised in play hours and other times to be inhaled by the children. I again appeal to those in authority over these schools to see to this. All the schools have a constant water supply, and the offices are on the whole good.

Housing Statistics for the year 1925.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(*a*) Total, including numbers given separately under (*b*)—75.

(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—

(i) By the Local Authority—None.

(ii) By other bodies or persons—74.

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's building scheme—8.

Financial assistance for purpose of increasing housing accommodation :—

Have any advances been made during 1925—

(*a*) By Loans ?—Yes. Number ?—81.
Amount of Loans, £31,860.

(*b*) By Subsidy ?—Yes. Number ?—59.
Amount of Subsidies, £4,580.

Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—276.

(2) No. of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 —202.

(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—None.

(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—None.

Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—Eleven dilapidated old houses have been bought by the Council and the work of reconditioning them is proceeding.

Action under Statutory Powers—

A.—Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—2.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—(*a*) By owners—None. (*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners—2.

(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close—None.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—None.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders—None.

(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made—None.

(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit—None.

(4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—One.

(5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—None.

D.—No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, &c.—None.

8	Houses were built in		1921.
12	,,	,,	1922.
23	,,	,,	1923.
42	,,	,,	1924.
75	,,	,,	1925.
Total houses built in 5 years		...	160

During the past year 75 houses have been built and occupied:—

42 are of the bungalow type
33 of the one storey type
73 are drained to the sewer
2 are built in unsewered areas, and are drained to septic tanks.

All are brick built, provided with baths, and have W.C's.

Houses built :—

1911 to 1915	67	
1916 to 1920	7	
1921	8	160
1922	12	
1923	23	
1924	42	
1925	75	

The general housing conditions are in most of the wards of the township really good. It must be understood that the cottage type of house prevails. There are no slums. In certain positions the houses are old, and the question of repair is the only point giving trouble from time to time. Until a sufficiency of new houses are available the old dwellings cannot be dealt with. East Street, Spinner's Square, Greenwood's Lobby, along with Chapel Brow, Gillibrand Street and the Cottages on the water side may be cited as poor and somewhat dilapidated property.

I estimate the shortage of houses at 200 to 250. There has been no material increase in the population. The census population was 12,153, the estimated population for 1925, 12,260.

The Council has no special scheme at the moment for increasing the number of houses. Building operations are active, and I am optimistic that private enterprise will provide the necessary houses. I welcome very cordially the growing tendency by present tenants of the purchase by loan through the Council of the houses they are living in, this ensures the improvement of, and the keeping of this property in excellent repair, it also conduces to interest in local affairs and good citizenship. Some 81 of these transactions have been effected during 1925, involving a sum of £31,860.

Overcrowding does not exist to any serious extent. Three examples of two families occupying one cottage. No instances of serious congestion have come under notice. House shortage is the cause of the dual occupation of cottages.

The general standard of house fitness is good, and with the exception of the small areas named. Dampness, old age, and falling away due to these causes constitute the causes of defects, sometimes owners are sluggish in the matter of repairs which are expensive to effect, and on the other hand tenants are not as careful of the landlord's property as might morally be expected.

In dealing with unfit houses, nearly all action is taken under the Public Health Acts. Close attention is given to areas where old and inferior property exists, no great difficulty has been found in having reasonable repairs effected, and this is frequently done by agreement between the owner and sanitary inspector ; apart from this, notices to repair and improve property are complied with.

Conditions so far as these affect Housing.

The water supply is constant, and reaches the whole area. Closet accommodation is improving steadily. Water carriage forms 73·74 % of the whole, pail closets 22·42 % and privy closets 3·84 %. As before pointed out privy closets exist mainly at outlying farms.

Refuse disposal is by tips, up to now this method of dealing with refuse has met the circumstances, but I don't like it, and the time is not far distant when we must provide a " Destructor," in fact this has been considered, but deferred, let the deferring not be too long, this is my advice to the Council.

Unhealthy areas we have none.

There are no houses let as lodgings, and By-laws as to caravans and tents do not exist. It may be wise to adopt these ; so few van dwellings exist there has been little use for special powers up to now.

Printed leaflets on home sanitation have from time to time been issued, and the use of the kitchen fire as a destructor of household refuse has frequently been emphasised.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, and the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, are both administered. Milk farms are under constant inspection, no opportunity is lost to develop improvements in the conditions under which milking herds are kept and the distribution of milk effected.

The milk supply of the District is of good quality and clean. Samples of milk are frequently taken, 34 of such samples were submitted for analysis by the County Inspectors

acting under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and all were reported as good.

The areas I have charge of as Medical Officer of Health completely surround the County Borough of Preston. The supervision of the milk supply of Preston is well organised in every way. Inspectors are employed to collect samples for analysis from the distributors as they come into Preston from the outlying areas. The Medical Officer of Health for Preston (Dr. Sharpe) through the Veterinary Inspector (Major Finch) always communicates with me when any of this milk is unsatisfactory. In all instances the farm indicated is visited, and whatever the cause of complaint may be the distributor is made aware of the facts. In the case of tubercular milk the whole herd is examined, additional samples of milk are taken to enable the diseased cow to be found, isolated, and reported to the local authority to be dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925. This combined action is, I consider, most valuable, and I am thus enabled to supervise the milk supply of areas under my charge. With regard to producers, like arrangements keep me informed of the condition and character of the milk passing from all my areas to large Cities and Boroughs throughout the County. Any complaints reach me through the Medical Officer of Health concerned. My immediate attention is bestowed on such complaints, and the source of the milk fully investigated and dealt with. A great deal of good and useful work has in this way been achieved. The problem of raising and producing sound, clean, and disease free milk is not at the moment solved. There is much spade work yet required. It is a simple matter to put in writing the requirements necessary to produce sound milk. Fine modern shippons and dairies, clean cows, clean farmers, clean utensils, in fact, clean everything; with these good milk should be obtainable. But the difficulty facing the producer and officials is that frequently few of these essentials exist. Poor buildings have to be re-conditioned, extra light, ventilation, new floors and dairies are in many instances necessary. The keeping of the animals clean is much neglected, very often through faulty and illconstructed floors a herd of cows are rendered dirty. I see far too many cows with flanks, legs and tails coated with cow dung, and such a condition in my opinion renders it impossible to secure clean milk. There are indications proving that some producers realise the necessity of regular grooming of the herd, one looks forward to great developments in this direction. The personal element in the production of clean milk is of the greatest importance. No licences have been issued for the sale of milk under special designations. There have been no refusals or revocations of licences.

A summary of the work carried through to renovate and

generally improve existing shippons is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report. It will be noticed that 3 new shippons were erected, and 4 more are to be constructed. 59 cowkeepers and 14 dairymen are on the Register. 94 inspections were made in 1925.

Six animals were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, 5 of these by the local authority and 1 by the owner.

Meat.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, became operative on 1st April. The directions of this order have been fully observed, and I am satisfied that the butchers' shops are clean and well ordered, all are glass fronted, so that meat when not under actual sale can so far as possible be protected from dust and flies. Shops, stores, vehicles are well supervised. The inspection of meat at the time of slaughter has been regularly carried out. No meat marking is done. In the township there are only two private slaughter-houses, one is exceedingly good, and well away from all dwellings, the other is not so well placed, but both are kept in a satisfactory state, and are licensed annually.

The inspection of foods revealed none of an unsound character (with the exception of 66 lbs. of offal). There are 11 butchers' shops, 88 inspections of these have been made. The inspection of the slaughter of 124 pigs at 50 farms was carried out in accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The bake-houses number 21, most are good, some few fairly satisfactory. I have visited most of these, and a constant watch is kept on all.

No difficulty has been found with the conditions, sanitary and otherwise, under which food is stored and exposed for sale. There were no occurrences of food poisoning.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease.

Reviewing the above heading, I am in a position to record a very capable and satisfactory system by which outbreaks of infectious ailments are prevented, aborted and controlled.

A close watch is kept on all suspicious illnesses of a diffuse character from early information received through factory managers, school masters, the general public and parents, a decision is soon arrived at as to the nature of the disease in "catching" outbreaks such as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and the Typhoid Group, practically all cases go into the Isolation Hospital. Other disorders such as Measles, Chicken-pox, Mumps, Whooping Cough, home isolation, with

certain school exclusions, coupled with intelligent and careful management on the part of mothers and those in charge of children (which I regret to acknowledge is most difficult to get) will be sufficient to abort most epidemic incursions, my experience is that scarlet fever is the most difficult of all diseases to stamp out. The epidemic side is always controllable, but the "dropping cases" are constantly with us in these parts, and form a difficult problem, sometimes a chronic throat, ear or nose throws some light as to the origin of cases, others are impossible to trace. Whooping cough varies greatly in intensity, and its infectiousness rapidly disappears after the third week of the onset.

School closure is now avoided as much as possible so as to prevent breaks in the education of the whole or portion of schools. The responsibility for this action devolves on the School Medical Officer except under special and urgent circumstances.

Schools have been closed during the last 5 years as under :—

1921. 2 school closures for whooping cough, cases of chicken-pox also prevailed.
1922. 4 school closures, scarlet fever 2, measles 2.
1923. 2 school closures for chicken-pox, cases of scarlet fever, mumps and influenza.
1924. 6 school closures, chicken-pox 1, measles 5.
1925. No school closure.

As Walton-le-Dale and Preston Borough are only separated from each other by the River Ribble, there is much intermingling between Preston and Walton and Walton and Preston, prevalent epidemics are frequently carried to Walton-le-Dale from the larger County Borough. Once introduced, school attendance plays an important part in disseminating catching diseases. Carelessness in allowing infected children to move about neighbouring families, this applies more particularly to mumps, chicken-pox and measles, and as these diseases are not regarded with any degree of fear by the fathers and mothers, here a serious proposition arises for solution by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Iuspectors. This is to some degree met by the circulation of printed instructions, sometimes this information is read, but in other instances it is ignored, on the whole, I hold the opinion, good comes of this line of action. I regard the closely packed motor bus as a source of considerable danger in times of epidemic prevalence.

Epidemic Invasions.

No very special remarks are here necessary, apart from the ever occurring outbreaks at 2 or 3 years interval of measles,

occasional visitation of mumps, german measles and chicken-pox. Walton-le-Dale may be considered well favoured in regard to the absence of epidemic diseases. No serious outbreaks of scarlet fever, diphtheria, or typhoid fever have taken place for many years.

The here inserted table deals with the number of cases of specified reportable diseases, including both forms of tuberculosis. The information embraces the years 1921-1925 :—

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	Total.
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	19	8	25	40	38	130
Diphtheria ...	6	3	7	9	10	35
Typhoid (including Paratyphoid)	...	2	*3	...	1	6
Erysipelas ...	4	2	6	9	2	23
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia ...	6	7	7	12	2	34
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	1	...	..	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	...	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14	23	16	11	12	76
Other forms Tuberculosis	8	2	17	8	2	37
Chicken Pox (notifiable)	51	9	62	3	...	125
Total ...	109	57	145	92	70	473

*Two of these were paratyphoid.

An age analysis of notifiable cases is here given. The table also specifies removals to hospital, deaths in hospital, and the total deaths for the year 1925:—

Disease.	Cases Notified.													Total Deaths.	Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all ages.	Years.													Total cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10–15	15–20	20–35	35-45	45-65	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever ...	19	...	...	1	1	4	10	1	2	...	...	...	...	16	...	...
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	6	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	1	1
Pneumonia ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	4	2	4	1	13	3	13
Other forms Tuberculosis	8	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	1
Chicken-pox ...	51	1	2	1	9	9	28	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	110	1	2	3	10	20	40	4	6	12	3	8	1	34	5	15

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, nor has immunization been practiced against these diseases.

Diphtheritic anti-toxin is available for immediate use, and as practically all cases of Diphtheria go at once into the Isolation Hospital prompt administration of anti-toxin takes place. During the five years under review there have been no instances of "return" cases of Scarlet Fever. Only one case of Malaria was notified, this was in 1921. The notification of Pneumonia is not good.

I have the authority of the Council to see that all necessary pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out. With the exception of 6 throat swabs no examinations were carried out in 1925. Many of the "Contacts" are children of school age. Infected families are visited and kept under observation, printed instructions are available in the cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Whooping Cough, &c.

I have never had an instance of a "Carrier Case." As Medical Officer of Health I have performed no vaccinations or re-vaccinations.

I prize very highly the information I obtain from school teachers, and the present day head master or mistress are accurate observers of the children under their charge. I am thus assisted in dealing with non-notifiable acute infectious diseases.

There are no special arrangements for dealing with verminous persons, nor have such arrangements been necessary. Infected "Fomites" are dealt with by the steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital, and by Formalin Fumes and Spray.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

In accordance with instructions a tabular statement is introduced, indicating new cases of tubercular infection, both pulmonary and non-pulmonary, together with the number of demises attributable to pulmonary and non-pulmonary forms of the disease :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0— 1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5 ...	2	...	1	2	...	...	...	1
5—10 ...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 ...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
20—25 ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
25—35 ...	2	1	1	1	2	2	...	...
35—45 ...	1	2	...	...	2	1	...	...
45—55 ...	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—65 ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
65 and upwards	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
	7	8	3	5	6	7	...	1
Totals ...	15		8		13		1	

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was necessary under these regulations, as no individual suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract was associated in any way with any milk supply, nor was Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, ever required.

The Tuberculosis Committee of the Lancashire County Council, through the central Tuberculosis Officer (Dr. Lissant-Cox) administer the full tuberculosis scheme in operation.

Formerly I visited, and my Sanitary Inspector visited any case of notified tuberculosis, then came along the County Tuberculosis Officer and the County Nurse, those concerned got so irritated and upset with this overlapping of visitation that I now confine myself to seeing that the premises are thoroughly disinfected on the removal for treatment, or death, and a supervision of those who return after treatment to their own homes. As the County scheme is practically perfect, harm is only done by a small army of officials descending on an unfortunate consumptive.

There is one point I am quite satisfied on, and it is this, that the spreading of information concerning the danger of the acquiring of tuberculosis by healthy people from an infected individual in the same family has stimulated a strong regard for personal safety through the adoption of the necessary precautions to avoid the possibility of taking the disease.

Schemes are organised and carried out by the Public Health Department of the County Council in relation to :—

(a) Child Welfare.
(b) Venereal Disease.

Attached to this report are :—

Report by the Sanitary Inspector.

Report by the Surveyor.

Summary issued by the M.O.H. of the County of Lancaster.

This summary contains the particulars required by Ministry of Health Circular 648, dated 10th December, 1925.

Broad Oak,
Penwortham,
Nr. Preston,
April, 1926.

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following report on the sanitary work accomplished during the year 1925:—

Closet Conversions.

No. of Privies converted to W.C's.		...	5
,, Pails	,, ,,	...	113
,, Privies	,, Pails	...	10
,, Waste Water Closets converted to W.C's.			1

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1925.

Fresh-water Closets	...	1884
Waste-water ,,	...	311
Pail ,,	..	662
Privy ,,	...	111

Ashpits.

89 Ashpits were abolished and Ashpails provided.

Refuse Receptacles at the end of 1925.

Houses with Ashpails ...	...	2115
,, Ashpits ...	...	642

The Removal of House Refuse, &c.

During the past year 127 Privies, 2052 Dry Ashpits, 36,400 Closet Pails, and 105,716 Ashpails have been cleansed; 576 loads of refuse were removed by cart, and 2387 by motor.

In 1922 9 drags of excreta were collected each week from Bamber Bridge and Higher Walton, and 2 from Walton Village. With the converson of pail closets to W.C's. this has now been reduced to 5 in Bamber Bridge and Higher Walton and 1 in Walton Village (or 5 drags per week less than in 1922.)

Milk & Dairies Act, 1922.

The following is a summary of work done in connection with the above Act:—

Shippons	Lighting increased	... 12
	Ventilation ,,	... 5
	Airspace ,,	... 6
	Floors repaired	... 11
	Drains made good	... 8
	Shippons reconstructed	... 2
	New Shippons built	... 3
	Council water laid on	... 1
	Pigs removed	... 1
	Dairies provided	... 16

The work of constructing 4 new Shippons and Dairies has been placed in the hands of Architects.

Summary of work done during the year 1925.

No. of Inspections of Dwelling Houses...	..	276
,, ,, Infected ,, ...	...	88
,, ,, Schools ...	...	23
,, ,, Cowsheds, Dairies & Milkshops		94
,, ,, Slaughter Houses & Shops...		88
,, ,, Yards	...	276
,, ,, Drains ...	...	325
,, ,, Factories ...	...	27
,, ,, Workshops and Bakehouses		41
,, ,, Re-inspections ...	...	1156
,, ,, General Inspections ...		22
		2416
No. of Privies cleansed	...	127
,, Dry Ashpits ,, ...	...	2052
,, Excreta pails cleansed ...	...	36,400
,, Ashpails ,, ...	...	105,716
Parcels of Bedding disinfected ...	...	110
Parcels of Bedding destroyed ...	...	13
Dwelling houses disinfected ...	...	51
Schools ,, ...	...	3
Complaints received	...	50
Drains tested	...	4

Summary of work done in compliance with notices.

Closet buildings	33
Defective slopstone pipes & drains made good ...	55
Roofs, gutters, and rain water conductors made good	16
Water closets repaired	3
Closet pails renewed	7
General nuisances rectified	48

Premises cleansed and white-washed	7
Privies converted to W.C's.	5
Pails „ „	113
Waste water closets converted to W.C's. ...	1
Privies converted to Pails	10
Ashpits abolished	89
Ashpails provided	101
Total	488

Notices served:	*Formal.*		*Informal.*		
Complied with	130	...	358	Total ...	488
Outstanding...	11	...	19	„ ...	30
Total ...	141	...	377	„ ...	518

NICHOLAS BARON, M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

20th March, 1925.

Report of the Surveyor for the year 1925.

I beg to report that during the past year the Council has reconstructed the portion of Brownedge Road between the railway crossing and Four Lane Ends, Preston Junction, with tar macadam, and Cottage Lane, Bamber Bridge; also the length of Hoghton Lane between Thorn Brush and Prospect Terrace.

The District Road, junction with Bank Head Lane and Alma Road has been improved by having the fence set back and the roadway reconstructed.

The Main and District Roads were tar sprayed and chipped early in the Spring, so that full benefit was derived from the work.

The Council decided to extend the Main Sewer in Hoghton Lane from Taberner Terrace to the Township boundary at the Straits, and also to Coupe Green property, this work was commenced last November, and is expected to be completed in a few months' time.

The flushing of drains and stoppages have been attended to by the Council's men; also the usual water main flushing has received attention.

JAMES LEIGH, Surveyor.

Council Offices,
Bamber Bridge,
31st March, 1926.

URBAN DISTRICT OF WALTON-LE-DALE.

SUMMARY of the particulars required by the Ministry of Health Circular 648, dated 10th December, 1925, to be included in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925.

1.—Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—4683.

Population (Census 1921)—12,153.

Physical features and general character of the neighbourhood—Embodied in Report.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921)—2823.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)– 2837.

Rateable value, £57,160. Sum represented by a penny rate £238.

Social conditions, including chief occupations of the inhabitants—Mostly Cotton Operatives, Farmers (milk, butter and cheese), and Market Gardeners. There are two foundries employing 200 to 300 hands.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health—Under improved conditions of work cotton operatives do not appear to suffer. Like remark applies to employees in foundries.

VITAL STATISTICS.—See Report.

The amount of Poor Law relief; the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilised—£627 14s. 0d.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review; and any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have a prejudicial effect on health—None.

2.—General provision of health services in the area.

Hospital accommodation provided or available :—

For Smallpox—Converted Farmhouse known as Bradkirk. Where situate : Bamber Bridge.

For other Infectious Diseases—Infectious Hospital. Where situate: Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge.

Joint or otherwise—No.

No. of Beds available *for your District* :—

For Smallpox—8. For other Infectious Diseases, 20.

Is there any Hospital Accommodation in the district for—

(a) Tuberculosis—No. (b) Maternity Cases—No. (c) Children—No.

Have any of the following been provided in your district ?—

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children—No.

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre—Conservative Club,Bamber Bridge, weekly, on Thursdays, from 2 to 4 p.m., by the County Council.

Day Nursery—No.

School Clinic—No.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—No.

Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre—No.

All dealt with under County Council Schemes.

Ambulance facilities .—

(a) For Infectious Cases—1 Horse Ambulance.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases—2 Motor Ambulances, Preston Royal Infirmary.—A good service.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—Charles J. Trimble.
Salary (including Bonus) as M.O.H., 31/12/1925, £175.
Is he a whole-time Officer?—Not in private practice.
Any other public appointments held by him? M.O.H. Fulwood U.D. and Preston R.D., and other Public appointments.

Sanitary Inspector—Nicholas Baron.
Salary (including Bonus) as Inspector, 31/12/25, £250.
Is he a whole-time or part-time Officer?—Whole-time.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—None.

Any Specialised Inspector (e.g. Food Inspector)?—None.

Any other Public Health Officers, such as Health Visitors and Special Nurses—None.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—Yes, by two nurses.
Nature of arrangements in the district for :—
(a) General Nursing. District Nurse.
(b) For Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, Measles, &c.—None.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District?—Yes.
How many District Nurses employed?—Two.
If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work?—No.
If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work?—No.
Does the Association undertake :—
(a) Midwifery cases?—No.
(b) Monthly Nursing?—No.

Has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants?—Yes, County Council Scheme.

Midwives—Is any midwife employed by or assisted by the Local Authority? No.
Number of Midwives on the County Council Register, 31/12/1925 :—4.
No. actually practising —4.
Any comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the midwifery service?—This appears to be satisfactory.

Legislation in force—Specify any Local Acts—None.
Local Orders?—None.

General Adoptive Acts :—	Operative from
"Infectious Disease Notification Act, 1889"	1st Feb., 1890.
"Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890"	1st July, 1891.
"Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890"	1st July, 1891.
"Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907"	17th Feb., 1909.
Bye-laws relating to public health?—Yes.	23rd Sep., 1901.

Observations as to their administration—All observed and in active use.

Particulars as to co-operation with—
The medical and ancillary services of the Nat. Health Insurance—None
The Voluntary Hospitals—Preston Royal Infirmary available for medical, surgical and maternity cases.
The Poor Law or other agencies—No, except the ordinary Poor Law services.

3.—Sanitary circumstances of the area.

Water Supply—
Source and quality—Deep Well at School Lane, Bamber Bridge.
Supply taken from Thirlmere Scheme, Manchester Corporation.
Contant or intermittent—Constant.

Approx. No. of dwelling-houses supplied—Direct 2940. By stand pipe 5.
Possibilities of contamination?—None.
Any liability to plumbo-solvent action—No.
Any insufficiency, and where?—None.
Nature of extensions (if any) during year?—75 new house connections.

Rivers and Streams—
Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams—None. The Ribble Joint Committee supervise this.

Drainage and Sewerage:—
Sewage Disposal Works, method of Treatment?—Precipitation and filtration.
What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year?—Major portion of Township sewered. The work is in progress of extending the sewer 2430 yards.
Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system—Outlying portions of the district.
Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.—Both when called for.

Closet accommodation at the end of 1925:—
Privy Middens:—No. of Middens—83. No. of Closets attached to these middens—111. No. of Pail Closets—662. No. of Dry Ashpits (excluding middens)—559. No. of Fresh Water Closets—1,884. No. of Movable Ashbins for refuse—2,115. No. of Waste Water Closets—311.

Conversions—		During year 1925.	During 5 years 1921—1925.
No. of Privy Closets	To Fresh W.C.'s	5	65
	To Waste W.C.'s	...	...
	To Pails, &c.	10	45
No. of Pail Closets	To Fresh W.C.'s	113	323
	To Waste W.C.'s	...	...
No. of Waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s ...		1	14
No. of houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles		89	290

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—Yes. The conversion of pails to water carriage is proceeding at the rate of over one hundred per year. This is all voluntary, the Council contributing half the cost.
Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—Yes.
If so, how much?—Privies, one-half. Sec. 39 Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.
What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property?—W.C.'s.

Scavenging—
Character and efficiency of the arrangements for Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse for whole of district?—Satisfactory.
How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?—Sanitary Authority.
Are motor vehicles used?—One motor and one horse vehicle.
If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—A few remain, day scavenging.
How is the Refuse disposed of?—Tips.
Has a Destructor been provided?—No.

Sanitary Inspections during 1925—
No. of premises visited—2416.
Defects or nuisances—No. discovered 518; Number abated 488; balance outstanding 30.
No. of Notices served—Informal 377. Statutory 141.
Legal Proceedings—None.

Smoke Nuisance—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement—None.

No. of Observations—None. No. of Legal Proceedings taken—None.

What is the time allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—None fixed.

Offensive Trades—None.

Workshops and Workplaces—What is their condition? Satisfactory.

Common Lodging-houses—None.

Houses let in Lodgings; Action taken or needed—None.

Schools—Sanitary condition—Satisfactory, with exception of playing yards. Water Supply, &c.—Good; from the Council's mains.

Canal Boats: Number inspected—None.

4.—Housing.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

(I.) General housing conditions in the area:—

(1) Good. We have no slums; in one or two centres the houses are old, and a few are not worth repairing.

(2) (*a*) Extent of shortage or excess of houses—There is a shortage; 200 to 250 reasonably priced houses would meet the present local requirements.

(*b*) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage—The Council has no special scheme. One site which has been laid out is for sale in building plots.

(3) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future—There have been no changes in the population beyond the natural increments, nor are any expected.

(II.) Overcrowding:—

(1) Extent—Very little; in some instances two families occupy the same cottage, but not to any very great extent.

(2) House shortage.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding—Improvement looked for in building activity; Loans by Council to enable newly married people to purchase a new house.

(4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925, and action taken—There have been no instances of bad overcrowding under notice.

(III) Fitness of houses:—

(1) (*a*) General standard of housing in the area—Considered as cottage property, it is good.

(*b*) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses—Old age, general dampness, causing delapidation, necessitating reconditioning.

(*c*) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants—Both factors operate, roughly a 50 per cent. responsibility prevails.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under—

(*a*) The Public Health Acts—Nearly all action is taken under the Public Health Acts.

(*b*) The Housing Acts—In one instance action was taken under the Housing and Town Planning Acts.

(3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—As a general rule notices to improve property are complied with.

Special measures taken or suggested:—

(*a*) Any special action to ensure improved management of property by owners—Nothing of a special nature has been required.

(*b*) Better care of property by tenants—Tenants are warned, and in bad cases notices are served to effect general cleanliness.

(*c*) The gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements—We find that owners keep their promises in regard to repairs.

(*d*) Any special method of dealing with unfit back-to-back houses, or or other type of insanitary property—No special measures needed, only 10 of these houses exist.

(4) Conditions so far as they affect housing, as regards—

(*a*) Water supply.—Satisfactory ; Council's supply.

(*b*) Closet accommodation—Closets on water carriage, 73-74%. Pail closets 22-42%. Privy closets 3·84%

(*c*) Refuse disposal—Satisfactory ; by means of tips.

(*d*) Measures taken during 1925 as regards (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*)—(*a*) Good. (*b*) Conversions always in progress. (*c*) Good, as far as a tip can be good.

(IV) Unhealthy areas :—

Information as to complaints received or representations made and action taken in regard to unhealthy areas—None.

(V) Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c.

(1) As to working of existing bye-laws—Bye-laws are necessary to deal with caravans and tents.

5.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(*a*) Milk Supply—Observations on—

The general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character—Adequately carried out by farmers holding Retailer's Certificates.

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops Orders—All milk producers and distributors are registered. Every dairy farm has been inspected ; many improvements have been effected, and more are in progress.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order. 1923—

No. of Dealers' Licences issued during 1925 in respect of "Certified" Milk—None.

"Grade A" (Tuberculin Tested) Milk—None.

"Grade A" Milk—None.

No. of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" Milk—Pasteurising Plants—None. Retail Distributors—None.

Dairies. Cowsheds, and Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected ?—Yes.

What is their condition ?—Some excellent, others not as good.

Give date of the Regulations made under the Order of the L.G.B. ? March 1900. Are they enforced ?—Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow (a) Where cows are habitually grazed—800 cubic feet ; (b) Where cows are not habitually grazed—800 cubic feet.

Cowkeepers.—Total No. of Cowkeepers—59. No. on Register—59. No. of Inspections during year—94.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)—Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors—14. No on Register—14.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows ? Give particulars. None at present.

Action taken as to Tuberculous milk or Tuberculous cattle—See body of Report.

(*b*) Meat.—Observations on—

(1) Meat inspection (including arrangements for inspection at the time slaughter, and for marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 :—Disease in meat and arrangements for disposing of condemned meat—Some of the Butchers kill at Preston Public Abattoir, where the meat is marked. Eight unlicensed and unregistered slaughter houses were formerly in use in the District, these have now been reduced to two, which are licensed annually. Local inspection regularly carried out, mostly heifers and bullocks killed ; meat not marked.

(2) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles—Regular and general supervision.

(3) Has a public slaughter house been provided ?—No.

Private slaughter houses :—

	In 1920.		In January, 1925.		In December, 1925.
No. registered	None.	...	None.	...	None.
No. licensed...	None.	...	2	...	2
Total...	None.	...	2	...	2

(*c*) Other Foods ;—

Action taken in respect of places where food is prepared—

Bakehouses—Number 21, condition fairly satisfactory.

Amount of food condemned or surrendered in 1925 as unfit for human consumption—

Tuberculous carcases and parts—66lbs. of offal.

Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat—None.

Other foodstuffs—None.

No. of Legal Proceedings and result—None.

Food poisoning ? Action taken (if any)—None.

Action taken by the Local Authority (if any) in respect of—

(i.) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

(ii.) Condensed Milk Regulations, 1923.

(iii.) Dried Milk Regulations, 1923.

(iv.) Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912—1917.

Controlled by the Lancashire County Council.

6.—Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Scarlet Fever ...	38	40	25	8	19
Diphtheria ...	10	9	7	3	6
Typhoid Fever ...	1	...	3	2	...

(See body of Report.)

Diphtheria Anti-toxin.—Notes on the supply and prompt use—Always an ample supply. Early use when cases are discovered in time ; large doses. Is a supply kept within the district ?—Yes. If so, where ?—Isolation Hospital, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Any special occurrence ?—One rather doubtful case.

Scarlet Fever.—Nothing of special note.

Pneumonia, Malaria. Dysentery, and Trench Fever.—No cases of Malaria, Dysentery, or Trench Fever. Pneumonia not always reported.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations. No. of specimens examined in 1925 :—Blood—None. Sputum—None. Throat Swabs—6.

Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum—None. Others—None.

Action taken in regard to (*a*) Contacts, (*b*) Return cases, (*c*) Carrier cases—Contacts are closely observed. Return cases, none. No carriers under observation.

Has any use been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases ?—No.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917—No. of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health—None.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district:—Measles, No. Whooping Cough, No. Chicken-pox, Yes. Diarrhoea (under 2 years), No. Any others, No.

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1925—None.

No, of Reports made during 1925 under Sec. 14 (4) Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922—None

Influenza.—Observations on any special enquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics—None.

Has any special attention been given to (*a*) cancer, (*b*) locally contracted anthrax, and (*c*) rabies?—No.

Disinfection:—

No. of Houses disinfected during 1925—51.

Method used—Formalin and Sulphur.

Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis—Yes, always. (b) Measles—Where necessary.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, &c.—Steam.

No. of articles disinfected—110.

Where is apparatus situated?—Infectious Hospital, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge.

If apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, &c., of patients not removed to Hospital?—Yes.

Any arrangement for bathing verminous, &c., persons?—No.

In how many instances has disinfestation been carried out?—None.

In your opinion, is the notification of Tuberculosis in your district efficient? Yes, quite.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify? No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?—No.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations (Articles 3, 5, 6 and 7) relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade?—Nothing of this nature existed.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

Any action taken under this Section with regard to applications for compulsory removal to hospital.—None.

7.—Maternity and Child Welfare.

The carrying out of the work of Child Welfare devolves on the County Council, and it is administered by their officials. A Centre in Bamber Bridge has been provided.—See text of Report.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1925:—

Conversion of Closets to W.C.'s. Abolition of Ash-pits and provision of Ash-pails. Extension of sewers in unsewered areas. The reconstruction of 11 dilapidated houses which the Council have bought is proceeding.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District—

Further Closet conversions. Abolition of Ash-pits and provision of Ash-pails The proper draining and construction of back passages and side streets.

Charles J. Trimble, Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1926.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the Urban District of Walton-le-Dale, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	27	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	41	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	Nil.	—	—
Total	68	None.	None.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—**				
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	—	—

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.—None.

* Including those speeified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Aet, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

April, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.